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SATURDAY
DECEMBER 19, 1953

Went antiquing this morning. Bought a plaster statuette of Benjamin Franklin by Nenni for 35,000 francs. It is [redacted] fragile, but protected by a glass cover. Picked up some odd St. Amand plates, and E. purchased a country wardrobe with enchanting trompe l'oeil decorations.

Lunch with the children, and then we went to Versailles, where I walked, and E. watched the Presidential balloting. The result was inconclusive. Laniel lost thirty-odd votes from his previous total. Only he and Naegelin, the Socialist candidate, have any considerable number. It had until recently been thought that, in case of a deadlock, there would be an overwhelming demand for Auriol to succeed himself. Barkis is willing, it is said, but there is no clear clarion call for his services. The sixth round will be staged tonight. Pending it, innumerable combinations will be attempted.

Jean Monnet, Van Helmont and Tommy came to the house about five and we spent a couple of hours going over European unity affairs. We are agreed upon the desirability of having President Eisenhower refer to a U. S. loan to the Coal and Steel Community in his state of the union message, and also to the advisability of my seeing what can be done to have the U. K. Government announce it is ready to undertake negotiations on the close association of Great Britain with the CSC.

We contemplated the situation that might arise if the French Parliament should continue more or less indefinitely to postpone a vote on the Defense Community. Germany can not be prevented much longer from demanding relief from occupation status. It was upon French ~~demand that all agreed to tie the~~ contractual arrangements, restoring German sovereignty, to the EDC treaty. The controls accepted by Germany under these arrangements ~~would not be consented to~~ by her if negotiations were reopened. Moreover, the [redacted] special privileges granted

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to France under the treaty and the protocols would not survive the death of the treaty. At the same time that the French Government is asking a guarantee from us not to remove U. S. troops from the Continent, she alone of prospective partners has obtained through an EDC protocol the right to withdraw her forces in an emergency from EDC.

The real alternative to EDC, but a most disturbing one, is a German national army in NATO. Even here the French are being unrealistic. They speak of controls over such an army, of a discriminatory nature, to prevent the rebirth of German militarism. Such inequality Adenauer cannot and will not accept. In addition, many Americans will be, like myself, bitterly opposed to the recreation of a German National Army and General Staff that may once again precipitate a great catastrophe. Civilization has barely survived past militaristic excesses committed by this formidable and dangerous people. An opportunity is now presented to attempt to solve the chief problem of Europe - the future orientation of Germany - by polarizing the Federal Republic toward the West. If France refuses to admit Germany into the European club, the eventual consequence may well be a shift by her Eastward, and then goodbye to any prospect of a peaceful world. Incapable of political unity amongst themselves, many of the French politicians do not recognize the unique opportunity now offered their country to seize the leadership of Europe and, in harmony with their neighbors, to make themselves strong and prosperous. It is maddening and frustrating to have to consider that this historical chance may not be grasped. If Adenauer were not Chancellor, the occasion would already have been missed. I ~~do not believe he can continue to~~ dominate his internal situation much longer if French confusion persists. Nor, in the absence of marked progress toward military and ~~political unity~~ in Europe, will our Congress sustain our present European policy or aliment the actual NATO strategy of defense.

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